

Annual Report 1997

professionals met the challenge of managing a correctional system which has custody or supervision for some 7,000 adult and juvenile offenders this past fiscal year.

As a team they faced shortages of prison beds, rapidly increasing prison admissions, and funding shortages for juvenile placements.

They also formulated effective management plans to promote public safety and offender accountability through the prudent use of funds. This is no small feat.

These plans involve accurate population projections and detailed analyses of management options; plus cooperation with law officers, members of the judicial system and legislators, not to mention hard work by our own dedicated employees.

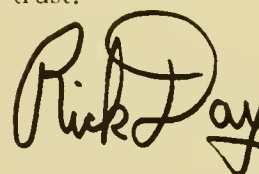
We were fortunate enough to have public input into the management plans from the Corrections Advisory Council, chaired by Representative Royal Johnson. His council and its 13 subcommittees, reviewed and refined our work.

The Advisory Council and the public forums of the Montana Sentencing Commission made great progress in informing the public about the role and function of corrections. They helped us show that corrections receives offenders who have first been caught by increasingly sophisticated law enforcement agencies, then have been convicted and sentenced by a judicial system that has responded effectively to the citizens' cry for tougher sanctions on criminals. The laws on which they operate are, of course, forged in the

legislature.

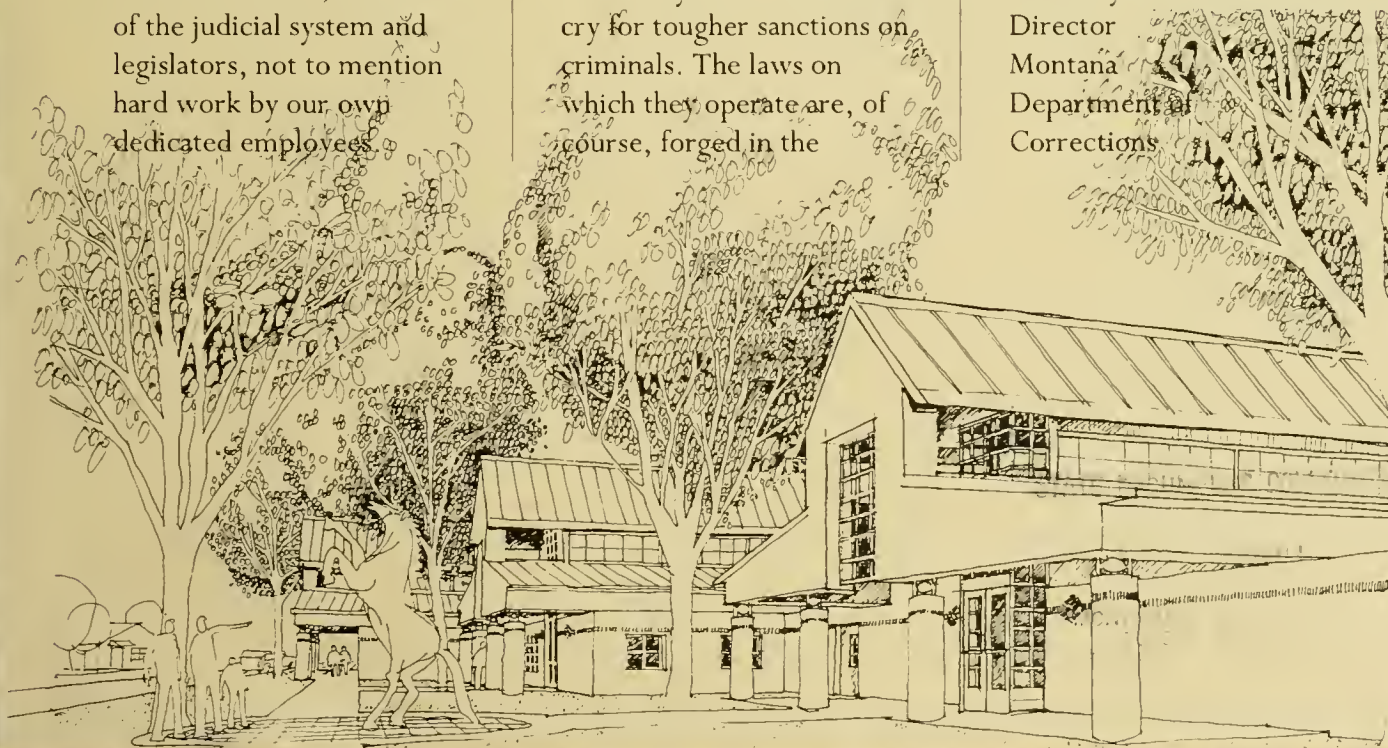
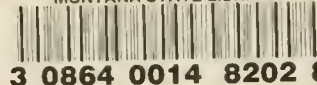
This four-part system has a remarkable success rate regardless of the challenges it faces. For example, the rate of return to prison for new crimes by discharged offenders during the initial three years after release is only 10.6% system wide.

As we move into the next year we will bring our commitment to bear on the constant issues. There remains much to be done; however, we will continue to strive toward more and greater public safety and trust.



Rick Day
Director
Montana
Department of
Corrections

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY



The Montana Department of Corrections has the responsibility to carry out the punishment levied on criminals by the courts. The Department performs the duty of incarcerating convicted felons, supervising them under out-of-prison conditions, and of offering programs for their restoration that includes the reparation of the victim.

The juvenile offender system includes Pine Hills Youth Correctional Center in Miles City which has 114 employees taking care of 84 offenders under the age of 18.



MCE provides nearly 300 jobs such as this one on the ranch.

Montana Youth Alternatives managed the initial part of a backcountry program for teenaged boys and girls. This program is entirely handled by Aspen Youth Alternatives, a private vendor. MYA has converted to a juvenile secure facility for 16 females called Riverside Youth Correctional Facility.

The adult system includes separate prisons for men and women. Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge houses more than 1300 men in a facility designed for 850. With about 450 full-time equivalent employees, the

men's prison is a significant employer for the area. Thirty-four employees have custody of 70 women at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings.

At both facilities, industry programs are managed by the Montana Correctional Enterprises division of the Department. Known as MCE, it offers vocational training, and offenders can also work in an industries program at

both prisons, or men can work at the prison ranch. The ranch and the industries programs are diversified and self-supporting.

Young men may be assigned to the Boot Camp, which is moving from Condon to Deer Lodge in November of 1997, and being

renamed the Treasure State Boot Camp. This is an intense program designed to reshape an offender's behavior rapidly and markedly.

After incarceration, many adults spend time in pre-

release or transition centers which helps them readjust to civilian life. Here, offenders continue to learn improved living and working skills. Montana has these centers in Missoula, Great Falls, Butte and Billings.

Some 90% of offenders eventually return to some community. Many do so through probation or parole. At any one time more than 5,200 adult probationers and parolees are supervised by 21 Probation and Parole Offices located from Sidney to Hamilton. Upwards of 165 offenders were in the Intensive Supervision Program which requires strict accountability and daily monitoring.

Many treatment and restorative programs are court-ordered and available to offenders. They include programs for addictive substances, anger management, morality, wellness, and parenting.

Meeting the *Challenge* of Public Safety

Achievements in Juvenile Corrections

- Created a new Wilderness Program alternative for juvenile delinquents.
- Finished a major revision of juvenile corrections policies.
- Started a pilot Length of Stay Guideline project.
- Established financial and program procedures to track and evaluate juvenile offender placements.
- Redesigned and restructured the Billings Juvenile Transition Center.
- Enacted these programs: Work Restitution at Pine Hills, 12-month school at Pine Hills, Vocational-Agricultural program at Pine Hills, Intensive Supervision Program, Parole classification, chemical dependency program at the Billings Juvenile Transition Center, technical education at Pine Hills, community life skills contract in Butte, and Native American program at Pine Hills

Achievements in Adult Corrections

- Moved the Women's Prison to Billings.
- Increased Community Corrections capacity by 50%, providing more beds for

- Falls, Glendive and Missoula.
- Created an HMO Managed Care program for Montana State Prison with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
- Established a new offender disciplinary policy.

Safety & Accountability Through *Prudent* Use of Funds




- alternative and transition sanctions.
- Expanded the Intensive Supervision Program to Kalispell and Bozeman, and improved technology to allow for alcohol breath detection and drive-by monitoring.
- Established the "boot camp" alternative justice facility and program for young men.
- Increased Probation and Parole staff by 40%.
- Increased prison bed capacity by 110 beds while saving \$300,000 through the creative and cooperative use of offender labor.
- Cooperated in creating regional prisons in Great

- Increased the number of offenders working to provide furnishings to the University of Montana and Montana State University.
- Established an Industries Program at the Montana Women's Prison.
- Emphasized involvement of volunteers at the Montana Women's Prison to promote community acceptance.
- Re-established the State Pre-release Screening Committee.
- Montana Women's Prison became tobacco-free.

Security

- Completed these security achievements: perimeter fences at Pine Hills and Montana Women's Prison, an inter-perimeter security team at Montana State Prison, hired an emergency preparedness coordinator to institute new procedures and training.
- Established a uniform standard for classification.
- Reduced county jail holding by moving 250 offenders to Texas.

Key Population Statistics

	Population on 6/30/97
 Adult Males	
Institutional	2300
Parole	708
Probation	3069
Total	6177
 Adult Females	
Institutional	158
Parole	70
Probation	1444
Total	1672
 Juveniles	
Institutional	174
Parole (Active Status)	119
Total	293
TOTAL UNDER SUPERVISION	8142

Institutional (Male) MSP, Expansion Dickens, Bootcamp, County Jail, Pre-Release, Transitional Living, ISP (Female) MSP, County Jail, Pre-Release, Transitional Living, ISP (Juvenile) Pine Hills MYA, ISP

More, next page

Management

- Created the Sentencing Commission and "truth in sentencing" legislation with the Legislature and the Governor's Advisory Council.
- Established a Citizens' Advisory Structure.
- Held public meetings statewide regarding reorganization.
- Created the policy task force to evaluate and revise more than 200 policies.
- Received two positive legislative program audits.
- Established the Department Newsletter with a mailing list of 1,475.
- Increased the Department's awareness of victims and actively pursued victims' opinions in Department policy and structure.
- Completed a pilot Corrections/Detention Officer training program in cooperation with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.
- Hired a public and victim information specialist.
- Reorganized, and developed a new mission statement and organizational structure.
- Consolidated Juvenile and Adult Probation & Parole offices.
- Consolidated statewide budget/fiscal functions.
- Established a safety program that reduced Workers' Compensation rates.
- Received a \$1.2 million federal grant for the Missoula County Regional Jail with a recent federal authorization for a total of \$11 million in the next five years.

During the last several years, the public has often perceived that convicted offenders receive greater protection of their rights as citizens and felons than do their victims. In large part the victim's involvement in the total

A special section of the Department's communications plan is devoted to victims, and resources are being gathered to help the advocate to provide better information and support to victims. The 55th Legislature approved the implementation of an

Restitution, Reparation & Restoration

justice system has been limited to that of being the recipient of a harm and as a small part of a prosecutor's case.

Victims and the public in general have moved to emphasize rights and privileges for the victims of crime. The Department is keeping pace with this movement by having created the position of public and victim information specialist, and by having created the Crime Victims Advisory Council.

The public and victim information specialist serves as staff liaison to the Crime Victims Advisory Council, and as advocate for victims in general. Policies exist which set a new standard for victim and department relations, and include correctional staff who have become victims of crime while in the performance of their duties.

automated victims notification system, known as VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), which will allow victims to be quickly informed of an offender's escape, release or parole.

The Department also received a grant from the National Victims Center to host a *Promising Practices and Strategies for Victim Services in Corrections* conference in 1997. More than 50 agencies and organizations from around the state submitted letters of support for the grant application.

VINE Toll-free
1-800-456-3076

Toll-free
Victim's Hotline
in-state, 8-5 M-F
1-888-223-6332

Mission

The Department of Corrections is dedicated to public safety and trust by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, against victims through custody, supervision, treatment, work, and skill development.

Goals

1. To *improve the safety* of the Montana Public and the *security* of our communities and homes.
2. To gain *public trust* through openness and responsiveness.
3. To provide accurate, timely information and support that contributes to the restoration of victims of crime.
4. To *reduce the risk* that offenders will reoffend and our citizens will be victims of crime.
5. To operate correctional programs that emphasize *offender accountability*.
6. To provide a working and program environment based on *professionalism, personal responsibility and respect* for each individual.

The Department worked closely with the 1997 Legislature to refine and revise the laws affecting corrections. Here is an overview of new laws requested by the Department by their bill number.

HB 101--Revised laws on inmate construction projects.

HB 102--Revised correctional and sentencing policy to punish offenders, protect the public, restore victims,

Legislation: *Cooperative* Policy Making

HJ 19--created an interim study of correctional standards by a legislative oversight committee.

HB 43--Revised escape definitions and allowed for recovery of expenses.

HB 44--Restricted inmate banking transactions and provided for the monitoring of accounts.

HB-68--Limited inmate tort remedies against the state.

HB 83--Allowed and provided for the regulation of private prisons.

HB 98--Changed the method of execution to lethal injection.

HB 100--Clarified the 4th offense DUI penalty.

and offer self-improvement to offenders.

HB 111--Revised sexual and violent offender registration acts.

HB 122--Reformed offender litigation laws.

HB 125--Revised intermediate sanctions and laws on community corrections facilities.

HB 135--Revised medical parole laws.

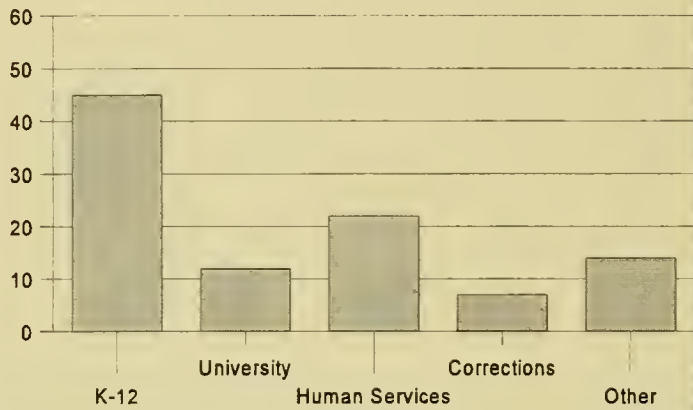
HB 136--Provided for issuance of revenue bonds through the Board of Investments.

SB 109--Generally reorganized and cleaned up of various sections of the law.

Biennial Funding

1996-97 General Fund Expenditures

Percent of General Fund dollars



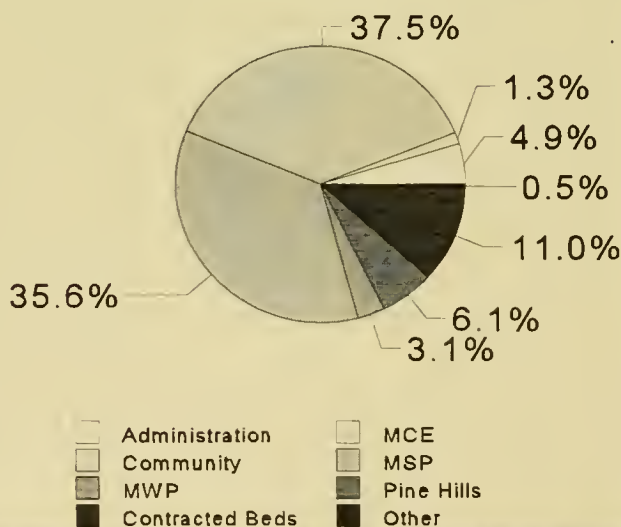
K-12 education remained the state's top funding priority with about 45 cents of every general fund dollar devoted to elementary through high school education.

About 12 cents on the dollar was spent on higher education. This makes for a general fund expenditure of nearly 57 cents on the dollar for education.

Another 22 cents on the dollar was spent by human services. Whereas corrections spent about 7 cents and the remaining state services will spend the remaining 14 cents.

Where the Money Went

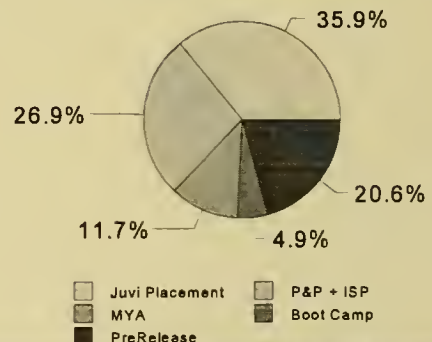
% of MDOC Budget From General Fund



Community Corrections Budget in Millions

Juvenile Placement -- \$8.0
 Probation, Parole & ISP -- \$6.0
 MT Youth Alternatives -- \$2.6
 Swan River Boot Camp -- \$1.1
 Pre-Release -- \$4.6

% of Community Corrections Budget--General Fund



MDOC General Fund Budget in Millions

Administration -- \$3.1 MT Correctional Enterprises -- \$0.8 Community Corrections -- \$23.9
 MT State Prison -- \$22.7 MT Women's Prison -- \$2.0 Pine Hills -- \$3.9 Contracted Beds -- \$7.0
 Other -- \$0.3 Total -- \$62.3